

THE WATER RAT

Published by
"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

MAY 1996

SKIPPER'S SCRAWL

The Annual St George's Day Parade took a different format, meeting at the Kings Meadow Stadium, thus enabling all Kingston and Malden Scouts, Cubs and Beavers to meet together rather than in separate Churches. Despite the short notice, we had a fairly good turnout from Leander which was good since the Cubs and Beavers were able to see our Scouts presented with the Marshall Trophy by the Mayor.

The Trophy is presented annually to the Group which does best in District Competitions and Badge Work - we came joint first with Tiffins and assume they only managed to equal our points with Badges since we out-performed them at the District Events. Well done to all the Scouts and Leaders for their achievement.

Two other congratulations are due. Firstly to Ness on her marriage to Garry Smith (saves changing surnames!) - I'm sure all parents will join in wishing them both well for the future and would remind them both to remember Leander has a waiting list - rather like the best schools!

Congratulations also to Andy Leader on his recent presentation of The Royal Humane Society Award for Bravery for his part in a River Rescue last year (see newspaper cutting on H.Q. Noticeboard).

We start our Summer Programme with several changes - firstly we have been concerned regarding continuity of the Waiting List and Chief (Mick Chinnock) is now taking care of admissions to all Sections of the Group. Prospective new recruits should first contact Mick on 0181-549 4995.

Other changes have also taken place in the last few weeks. We have some new Beavers who have joined, Beavers gone up to Cubs and Cubs to Scouts. Beaver parents will be aware that Chris Stotesbury has decided to stand down as Leader and we are now actively looking for someone to take overall control of this Section (volunteers please). Meanwhile, the programme continues much as usual.

Margaret King has also stood down as Akela and Simon and Neil are running Cubs at present. However, since both work shifts, we still need more help in this section both with additional Leaders and also Badge Work Instructors.

Monthly Swimming Sessions are also on the programme and since we need a ratio of 1 adult to 4 cubs, volunteers will be required.

"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

Headquarters:- 92 Lower Ham Road Kingston upon Thames Surrey
Telephone: 01-549 6286



Our thanks are due to both Margaret and Chris for all the work they have put into Leander.

Finally some important dates for your Diary :

GROUP AGM and Open Afternoon/Barbeque - **SUNDAY 19TH MAY 1996** - see attached details.

SUNDAY 7TH JULY - National Sea Scout Regatta at Leander

SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER - Great River Race - Richmond to Greenwich

TUESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER - ADMIRALTY INSPECTION - **Compulsory** for ALL Member to attend - Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Ventures.

Further details of the Inspection will be available nearer the time, but it is likely to start from about 18.30hrs. Beavers and Cubs finishing about 19.45 and Scouts about 21.30. Parents will be welcome to attend and see what goes on, but please note the date in your diary in **BOLD** letters now!

Looking forward to seeing as many parents and supporters as possible for the AGM/Open Day.

KIETH MAUND

SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION REPORT

Fund Raising Activities last year raised over an amazing **£1,134.00!**

Whilst the winter months activities are quiet, things are beginning to "hot up" and helpers are required.

SUNDAY TEAS start again on Sunday 5th May through to September. Sarah Barnard (Tel 0181-546 7371) needs your help with this enjoyable activity.

HAM FAYRE Saturday 8th June - help needed - SEE BELOW

NATIONAL SEA SCOUT REGATTA - Sunday 7th July.

PLEASE TRY TO SUPPORT THESE EVENTS

HAM FAYRE

Please try to help in some way with the **HAM FAYRE** this year on **JUNE 8TH**.

The following are required:

- Offers of help on the day from 11.00am until 5.00pm. Can you give up one or two hours to help on our stall?
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- White Elephant, Bric-a-Brac etc., wanted. We are now collecting so all donations appreciated.
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- Home-made Cakes and Cookies; especially home-made cookies, flap-jack, biscuits, etc., to be delivered on the day.

Please 'phone Sarah or Robert Barnard on 0181-546 7371 for further details.

THIS IS ONE OF OUR MAJOR FUND RAISING EVENTS - PLEASE SUPPORT US

TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS TO THE WATER RAT

PLEASE NOTE ARTICLES FOR THE WATER RAT CAN BE SENT BY FAX (IF APPROPRIATE) TO 0181-391 0081 (LYNDA LEADER)

NESS'S NATTER

To start the year off Winter Camp had to be postponed as Leaders and boys had difficulty fitting in this wonderful cold wet weekend into our already busy schedule, but do not fear, Winter camp renamed itself Spring Camp. Organised by Ben Tindall it took place at Broadstone Warren, East Grinstead. A very late camp fire on Saturday night was followed by a trip to Beachy Head on the Sunday Morning to watch the sun come up.

Our Saturday afternoons were a hive of activity as we pulled out the camp store, painted special stuff over the racking to protect it from the rigours of scouts mishandling, and then everything was put back into a semblance of organised chaos.

Boat maintenance was also high on the agenda, as the 2 coypus and one of the coypus had major overalls. These will be ready and fit to be back on the water in a couple of weeks. Many thanks to all who helped in getting the work completed in a timely manner.

On the whole the troop have been very busy, there have been a lot of badges gained including Ben Tindall completing the last part of his Chief Scouts by organising Winter/Spring Camp. There was a lot of practical seamanship covered and progress work passed, so with luck we should have a good record of badges to show the Commander when we have Admiralty Inspection in September.

During February 8 boys went on a Narrow Boat for the weekend. We started at Cowley on the Friday Night, steamed up to Uxbridge, where we were entertained in MacDonalds for tea, more like feeding time at London Zoo for the chimps! especially as the mad cow scare had just happened. On the Saturday we steamed up to Cassiobury Park, where another Scout District were have their annual Night Hike; being the good scouting types that Leander are we invited some of the leaders who were very cold in for tea, but the chaps we had with us decided to show our boat steerer, in typical Leander fashion, their appreciation of his skills by trying to press gang him into joining our merry little band. All he said to me a few weeks later was " Your chaps are great, I have bruises to prove it." What can one reply?

We also had a swimming session at Richmond baths where essential swimmers badges were gained. There were a number of patrol activity evenings, when a leader went with a patrol if they went out, this seemed to be successful but we still had a few moans and grumbles from various sources, so we tried to remedy this by holding a meeting so that feelings and any grievances could be aired. From the very few who attended we could only assume that we must be doing something right.

We also went camp at Chalfont Heights on the weekend after Easter. It was one of those camps when everything seemed to go wrong. Firstly the mini bus we hired, became unavailable on the day we were due to leave. The weather turned very wet, the light board on the trailer refused to work and we got to the camp site very late. Then, as we started to put up the tents it started to snow, not small amounts of snow, but huge flakes that settled. When we went to bed on the Friday night there was a thick covering on the ground. Next day the weather was brilliant, coxswain organised an orienteering activity, Karen and Louise sat and sunbathed in the glorious sunshine, ending up looking rather red.

All in all it has been a very successful few months, we welcome all the new members of the troop and hope that they will have an enjoyable time with us.

If you have any suggestions or questions please do not hesitate to contact either Coxswain or myself, our telephone numbers are in the group directory.

Ness.

COXWAIN'S CORNER

Despite the cold weather, meetings in winter have been well attended and always seem to be very busy. Getting the coypus refurbished meant a lot of sanding down, making fibre glass repairs and putting in new flotation - so a few new skills have been learnt and applied.

There was a very good response to the final Marshall Trophy event, in particular, our 10 strong first aid team had an intensive training session the day before the competition (thanks Angie), which we won. Perhaps it was something to do with the promise of a pizza lunch, as afterwards a substantial amount was consumed at Pizzaland.

After two abandoned car boot sales at North Kingston, because of appalling weather, we struck lucky two weekends ago providing teas and rolls, selling every thing we took with us. We made enough money to provide proper shelving in the Scout Office, so that in future, everything can be stored neatly and books and periodicals can be easily located.

Coxswain

Venture Slot

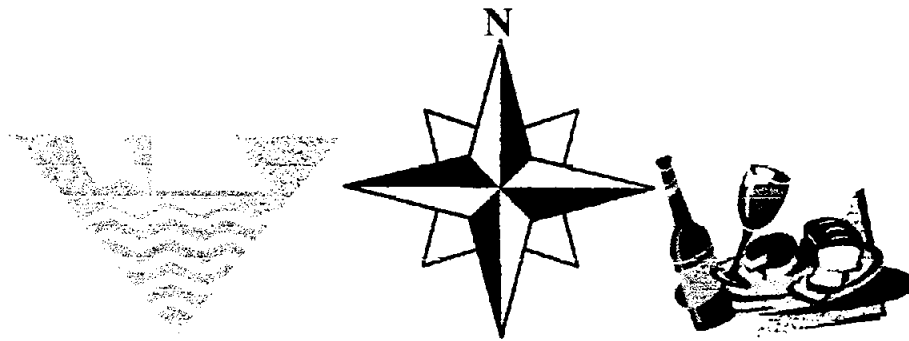
Well, what can I say about the Ventures? I don't know, but I'll have a go!
The Ventures have been meeting on monday evenings since last Septemberish. Despite not really having a really rigid, solid programme, we do seem to enjoy ourselves, as well as doing things that are also productive, namely the new boat, Ebbage 11. Thanks to the Leader brothers, who got the engine operative, save for a little fine tuning and fitting of a few fixtures and fittings. I have been using my skills as a signwriter and made up nameplates for the bow and stern. The results are very pleasing.

We were to go camping this spring, but everyone has work pressures so this has not so far been possible. If the EBBAGE is ready, a weekend up river would be very pleasant.

We've also been invited to do the boot fair at North Kingston Centre at some point, teas, bacon rolls, etc, to get some funds in. Fine by me.
I thank you

Gaz.

<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Medium /small 2 piece wet suit Good condition</p> <p>Contact : Coxswain</p>
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OPEN DAY AND AGM - SUNDAY 19TH MAY 1966

Every organisation has to have an Annual General Meeting, and Leander is no exception. This year, it will be part of the Open Day on Sunday afternoon, 19th May. This will be a chance for all parents to get on the river - try your hand or sit back and let someone else do the work. Also Cubs and Beavers who have reached the necessary standard of swimming will be able to take part in the boating activities.

At the AGM, which should take no longer than half an hour, written reports about Group Finances and from the Sections will be available and there will be the opportunity to ask about them. Perhaps the most important business is the election of the Executive Committee which oversees the running of the Group. It is vital that all sections of the Group are represented, especially Beavers and Cubs, who are frequently new to Leander. The duties are not onerous - there are about five meetings a year - and it definitely does not mean that you get lumbered for all the jobs!! It is more of a steering and advisory committee and I hope that some of you new to the Group will feel able to volunteer and support your sons and daughters.

The afternoon will conclude with a barbeque from 4.30pm at £1.50 a head. I am sure it will be a pleasant afternoon and look forward to seeing many of you there.

NIGEL DUFFIN

Chair of the Leander Executive Committee